

**FRIENDLY
CONNECTIONS**

State College Friends Meeting

**December
2018
Newsletter**



*State College Friends Meeting
611 East Prospect Ave.
State College, PA 16801
Phone (814) 237-7051*

Newsletter suggestions, ideas, articles? Please submit to SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com by 3rd week of the month

CALENDAR

Dec.2 SCFM Meeting for Worship for Business, 9 am*
Dec. 5 Movie at Foxdale Auditorium: *Reinventing Power, America's renewable energy boom*, 7 pm
Dec.9 SCFM Potluck at rise of meeting*
Dec.16 SCFM Pageant, Caroling & Meeting for Worship, Foxdale*
Dec.16 Rise Up Singing, 4-6 pm*
Dec.23 SCFM Candlelight Meeting*
Jan.12-13 BYM Junior Young Friends gathering
Jan.25-27 BYM Women's Retreat

Announcements

May the richness of our diversity strengthen our community and our love

First Day (Sunday), 12/2/2018
9:00 am Meeting for Worship for Business
10:45 am Gather for Meeting for Worship. Childcare available
11:00 am Family Meeting for Worship
11:15 am First Day School
12:20 pm Social time

A Meeting for Worship is also held regularly at *Foxdale* every First Day. All are welcome. Gather at 10:15 am in the Meeting room.

▶ In December, ***Meeting for Worship for Business*** will be on Dec. 2, but the usual business-meeting-day potluck will move to Dec. 9.

▶ USQM will have its annual **"Sing and Potluck"** on December 8th at noon at Pennsdale Meeting House.

▶ ***Candlelight Meeting*** will be in the Meeting House on Dec. 23rd, 6-7:30 pm. Please bring a plate of cookies and a candle for lighting. Refreshments will follow meeting.

Christmas pageant and caroling

▶ On Dec. 16, at 11:15 am, ***Meeting for Worship** will be in the Foxdale* auditorium. The ***Christmas pageant and caroling*** will follow worship at noon. Contact Kerry at ***kgw11@scasd.org*** <kgw11@scasd.org> or *814-571-8909 *if you are willing to participate in the pageant! Actors of all ages needed!

Dec 2, 12:30 at Mtg House Social Room: Do an initial read through of the script, make necessary adjustments to the script, sign-up for parts and discuss costuming.

Dec 9, 9:30 at Mtg House Social Room: Bring costumes, and run through play twice.

Dec 16, 9:30 at Foxdale: Set up props for pageant, adorn costumes and run through play twice.

If you want to be in the pageant but can't make either the 2nd or the 9th, you may still participate.

▶ State College Friends Meeting is ***Ringing the Bell*** at the Wishing Well at Meyer's Dairy for Interfaith Human Services on ***Sat., Dec. 22,*** 8 am to 9 pm. Please sign up for your hour to help others. The sign up is on the white board in the Meeting Social room. You can also contact Lynne at lynnebabs@gmail.com <mlynnebabs@gmail.com> to request a time. This is your opportunity to help those less fortunate.

▶ Please sign up for ***refreshments and potluck***:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AABAE29A6FA7-state/76478042>

▶ ***Rental Groups***. We have been blessed with a growing number of rental groups at the Meetinghouse. Friends may notice that the Meetinghouse feels less like a "second home" (open only to Quakers), and more like a public space, as we share the building with Turkish class, CSA distribution, and Girl Scouts. Please be sure to check the calendar <<http://statecollegefriends.org/calendars/>> before meeting at the building. As always, members and attenders are welcome to meet here for fellowship, mid-week worship, or for a place to center.

▶ Every Wednesday, ***A Course in Miracles*** study group meets from 7-8:30 pm at the Meetinghouse. It is a free and open group. Anyone can attend. No previous knowledge is necessary. For more information contact Laura Collado at lmcollado@comcast.net

▶ **Film at Foxdale** "***Reinventing Power, America's renewable energy boom***", ***Wed., Dec. 5, 7 pm**, Foxdale Auditorium. A trip across the country to hear from the people making a clean energy future achievable.

► ***FGC Assessment on Racism***. FGC has released the report of the Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism on its web site Central Committee, a governing body of Quakers from North America and Canada, met in late October and labored with the realities of white supremacy. The committee received a minute for discernment from the Task Force on Systemic Racism. The group had extreme difficulty coming to unity. In reflection, Friends noted that systemic racism inserted itself in a myriad of dispiriting ways as they worked to address white supremacy. Read the full report

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/news/october-report-institutional-assessment-racism-task-force-recommendations-fgc-central-committee?utm_source=FGC+E-Newsletters&utm_campaign=6f366baad6-COMM_Vital_Friends_Sept_2018_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_834ba22447-6f366baad6-234683897&goal=0_834ba22447-6f366baad6-234683897&mc_cid=6f366baad6&mc_eid=23ee0f946c>
online.

► ***Amazon Craft Sale**, *Sun., Dec. 2: 12:30 pm-3 pm. Amazon Holiday Handicraft Sale in the social room. Come check out a great variety of holiday tree ornaments and other fair-trade handicrafts (belts, bags, baskets, guitar straps, dog collars and leashes, coin purses, cell phone holders, earrings, hair barrettes, hat bands, bracelets, necklaces and rings) made with sustainably harvested rainforest plants by native artisans from the Peruvian Amazon. Buying these crafts supports artisan families, forest conservation, and partner communities of the Center for Amazon Community Ecology. Check out Artisans of the Ampiyacu video to see the artisans in action at: <http://tinyurl.com/PeruArtisans>. Contact: Campbell Plowden call 814-380-1959 or at cplowden@comcast.net <cplowden@amazonecology.org>

Baltimore Yearly Meeting *The Environment*

Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations?

Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution?

Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting



QUERIES
QUERIES

Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives – in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that over-commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things?

Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me?

Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?

STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

Eleventh Month 4th, 2018

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Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on Stewardship of Resources from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

*Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources?
Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?*

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?

There were no responses to the Queries.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of a report from Friends School and the removal of a report from Nominating Committee.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/INDIVIDUALS

Worship and Ministry

Lynne Grutzeck reported that a Committee for Clearness met with Laura Collado, and the Committee is recommending her for membership.

Meeting happily approved welcoming Laura Collado into membership.

A welcome dinner will occur with Laurie Jeffreys, Gary Fosmire, Lorna Arocena, Katy Lumley-Sapanski (convener), and Robert Lumley-Sapanski.

Andrea Harmon has had her Clearness Meeting for membership. The Committee recommends her for membership after she is introduced to Meeting during the month of November.

Announcements: candlelight service will be held on December 23rd at the Meeting, with the time to be announced. Refreshments will be cookies and juice. Meeting for Worship will be held at Foxdale on December 16th, followed by the Religious Education Christmas pageant. Worship and Ministry has a committee working on Adult Education.

The Memorial Service for Jane Jenks Small was lovely and well attended.

Finance Committee and Treasurer

Connie Wheeler and Kerry Weissmann reported. Connie reviewed the budget for this year. We are doing ok with income but will need more before the end of the year. Kerry noted that rentals are down due to Friends School not paying rent earlier in the year. But other rentals have been increasing and the building is being used more. The donations from the Harvest Dinner have not yet been entered into the budget since the dinner occurred in the next month.

Connie presented a draft of the budget for 2019. Most committees received the same amount as this year since only one committee clerk contacted her. The groups that we will have fundraiser dinners for have not yet been named. Building repairs are not included since the money comes from other sources. The emergency fund is still listed.

Kerry asked for Friends to let Finance Committee know of any anticipated changes for next year's budget. She also reminded everyone that committees can just spend their budget, they don't need approval from Finance Committee. If a committee goes 115% or more above their line items, or need a new line item listed, then committee clerks should talk to Finance Committee. The Committee had some discussion about how much to give to USQM and have contacted someone from USQM for feedback.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Robert Lumley-Sapanski filled Friends in on a number of projects:

- The hole in the parking lot has been filled.
- The light in the back room of the garden level has been repaired.

- A window in the back room of the garden level needs to be replaced.
- For the flooding issues, one company suggested an internal french drain system that would cost more than \$5000. Doing the work would take less than one day, but the company is very backed up because of the rainy summer and fall.
- The lighting in the social room is still an issue. Robert continues to try to get an estimate for the work, but the estimators have not been showing up.

Individual Reports

Polly Dunn wanted to remind Friends to check the Meeting calendar. We have many groups renting the space, including some new ones. Members and attenders need to be aware that if they stop by, there is likely to be a group using the meeting house. The calendar on the website can be used for reference about availability. Polly and Betsy are trying to figure out how to print out a copy of the calendar to post.

Someone is needed to post the sign-up genius in order to get people to sign up for refreshments. People need to be reminded to sign up, including in the Bulletin. Michael Grutzeck volunteered to do the sign-up genius and to remind people.

Polly asked how Friends would respond to the Meeting having training for an active shooter. A few members have done this with other organizations. The police would come and do the training, and this helps the police also know the building and how it is laid out. A discussion ensued with some expressing discomfort with the idea. Gary Fosmire will talk with the police and see what is recommended and bring that information back to Meeting.

Advancement and Outreach and Social Action

Johanna Jackson has been looking at how we disseminate information at the meeting house and has done some simplifying of the entry way to make it more interesting. She also has interviewed 5 new attenders about what was welcoming for them about our Meeting community.

Friends General Conference is committing to becoming an anti-racist community. Johanna will have more information about that in the future. But this has led her to question what we can do to be more welcoming to people of color? Some individuals at Meeting have been learning how to be more welcoming. Becky Misangyi is willing to lead bias training with a focus on race. Johanna also noted that FGC has a list of resource books on their website.

Religious Education Committee

Becky Misangyi reported that things are going well. All three classes are going to Foxdale today; this is the first time for the elementary age group. Becky wants to make sure that Friends School families become aware of how welcome they would be to attend Meeting.

Friends School

Donnan Stoicovy said it has been a busy month. Lots of school committee work has been happening, and the students have been taking great field trips. The Search Committee is hoping for a decision about the Head of School by January. Donnan did a presentation on Deliberation at a conference recently where she included information on Quakerism. She also attended The Pollyanna Principle with Leadership Centre County and an Arthur Larabee workshop. They are working on designing summer school for next year.

Though independent schools like Friends School don't have to do most of the state testing, they do have to do the Keystone Exam so they are preparing for that. They are also refining their recycling program and working with Foxdale to discuss intergenerational ideas. They are hoping to get a weather station installed at the school. SPICES is on November 11th and Thankful Tuesday starts at noon the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Friends are encouraged to visit at any time. The front door is now kept locked and people are buzzed in. They have completed a one-month trial of a locked front door and the only feedback received was positive.

CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk had none to report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from October were approved with no changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The December potluck will be on December 9th.

Lynne Grutzeck reported that Marjorie Nelson had knee surgery the past week. It went well, and she is now recovering in Anthony House. Roger Way is celebrating his 100th birthday. Bell ringing for Interfaith Human Services will be at Meyer's Dairy on December 22nd. A signup list has been posted.

Kerry Wiessman announced Centre LGBTQ Thanksgiving Dinner will be at 6:00p.m. on November 11th.

Johanna Jackson noted that the meeting house is a voting space. We need to think about how to make the area more inviting.

Next Business Meeting for Worship: December 2, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Fosmire, Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording Clerk

ATTENDANCE:

Kerry Wiessmann

Connie Wheeler

Polly Dunn

Lynne Grutzeck

Michael Grutzeck

Katy Lumley-Sapanski

Robert Lumley-Sapanski

Jenn Grubb

Andrew J. Hibbler

Cathy Braasch

Becky Misangyi

Seta Toroyan

Elizabeth Pennock

Laurie Jeffreys

Lorna Arocena

Ann Sidone

Donnan Stoicovy

Johanna Jackson

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RETURN REQUESTED